

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184896

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MANILA DATED AUGUST 2, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11925

USADB

FOR NACHMANOFF/TREASURY AND HEGINBOTHM/STATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN
SUBJECT: SITE OF ELEVENTH ADB ANNUAL MEETING

1. ADB VICE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
INFORMALLY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER U.S. MIGHT BE WILLING TO
HOST 1978 ADB ANNUAL MEETING. BANK SO FAR HAS FOUND IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND COUNTRY WILLINGTON TO ACT AS HOST PRINCIPALLY
BECAUSE OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA PARTICIPATION. VICE PRESIDENT
INDICATED THAT INFORMAL APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE UNSUC-
CESSFULLY
WITH SINGAPORE, NEPAL, SRI LANKA, UNITED KINGDOM,
CANADA AND GERMANY, AMONG OTHERS. MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA
WERE RECENT HOSTS AND BANK MANAGEMENT WOULD PREFER NOT
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TO ASK KOREA FOR QUOTE POLITICAL REASONS UNQUOTE. WHEN
PRESSED AS TO WHAT WERE THESE CONCERNS, KRISHNA MOORTHI
EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THERE MIGHT BE HUMAN RIGHTS DESMONSTRATIONS
THAT THE BANK WOULD FIND EMBARRASSING AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
VICE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS
SITUATION COULD FORCE ADB MEETINGS TO BE HELD PERMANENTLY
IN MANILA WHICH, HE ADDED, WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE

BANK'S WELL BEING.

2. VICE PRESIDENT THEN NOTED THAT IDB ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA NEXT APRIL 17-19, WHILE AFDB ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD FIRST WEEK IN MAY, 1978. HE SUGGESTED THAT UNITED STATES MIGHT CONSIDER HOSTING ADB ANNUAL MEETING POSSIBLY ON WEST COAST DURING WEEK IN BETWEEN THESE TWO SESSIONS, WHICH WOULD PERMIT ASIAN PARTICIPANTS TO ATTEND ALL THREE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTION MEETINGS IN ONE TRIP. HE ADDED THAT HIS APPROACH WAS ONLY AN INFORMAL ONE, AS BANK WOULD NOT WANT A FORMAL REJECTION.

3. U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONDED THAT HE APPRECIATED BANK'S CONCERN; HOWEVER, VICE PRESIDENT'S INQUIRY PROVIDES RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE, AND IT ALSO WOULD PRESENT A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT. USED ALSO NOTED THAT BY HOLDING 1978 MEETING IN MANILA, BANK COULD BE REGARDED AS ONLY FOLLOWING PRACTICE ADOPTED BY IMF/IBRD.

4. USADB SEES NO MAJOR PROBLEM IF BANK WERE REQUIRED TO HOLD TWO CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS IN MANILA. IT DOES SEEM POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT ONCE GENERAL AWARENESS EXISTS THAT BANK UNABLE TO FIND MEMBER COUNTRY TO HOST ANNUAL MEETING THAT THERE COULD WELL BE INCREASED INCLINATION TO

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EXPEL ROC FROM BANK IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER DIFFICULTIES THIS SORT. ALSO A U.S. OFFER TO HOST MEETING COULD PROVIDE MODEST POLITICAL ADVANTAGE FOR U.S. IN ASIA BY DEMONSTRATING IN PRACTICAL FASHION U.S. INTEREST IN REGION. IF U.S. UNABLE TO HOST 1978 MEETING, USADB HOPES THAT WE COULD INDICATE OUR READINESS TO CONSIDER INVITATION FOR 1979, IF 1978 MEETING ACTUALLY HELD IN MANILA.

EDMOND UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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